

- B<sup>1</sup>
1. (Currently Amended) A fuse structure comprising:  
an insulator layer; and  
[a plurality of fuse electrodes] an inverse-U shaped fuse extending through said insulator layer to an underlying wiring layer, [; and]  
[a fuse element connected to said electrodes,]  
wherein a portion of said fuse [element] is positioned external to said insulator, with a gap juxtaposed between said insulator and said portion of said fuse [element], and  
wherein said fuse comprises a continuous conductive element.
  2. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said portion of said fuse [element] is electroplated.
  3. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said portion of said fuse [element] is electroless plated.
  4. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said fuse [element] has a thickness in the range of 100 angstroms to 350 angstroms.
  5. (Canceled).

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6. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said portion of said fuse [element] is [perpendicularly disposed] perpendicular to and above said [plurality of fuse electrodes] insulator layer.

~~7. (Original) The fuse structure in claim 1 further comprising an interface wall, wherein said interface wall further comprises a first side wall, a second side wall, and an inner wall, wherein said inner wall is disposed within said gap.~~

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8. (Currently Amended) A fuse structure comprising:  
an insulator layer; and  
[a plurality of fuse electrodes] an inverse-U shaped fuse extending through said insulator layer to an underlying wiring layer, [; and]  
[a fuse element connected to said electrodes,]  
wherein [said] a portion of said fuse [element] is positioned external to said insulator,  
wherein said portion of said fuse [element] is [perpendicularly disposed] perpendicular to and above said [plurality of fuse electrodes,] insulator layer, and  
[wherein said plurality of fuse electrodes are diametrically opposed to one another]  
wherein said fuse comprises a continuous conductive element.

9. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure of claim 8, wherein said portion of said fuse [element] is one of electroplated and electroless plated.

10. (Original) The fuse structure in claim 8 further comprising an interface wall, wherein said interface wall further comprises a first side wall, a second side wall, and an inner wall.

11. - 20. (Previously Canceled).

84 21. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said portion of said fuse [element] is surrounded by air.

22. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure in claim 8, wherein said portion of said fuse [element] is surrounded by air.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

35 25. (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit structure comprising:  
a wiring layer having wiring elements;  
an insulator layer covering said wiring layer; and  
[electrodes] an inverse U-shaped fuse extending completely through said insulator layer and being connected to said wiring elements, [; and]  
[a fuse element connected to said electrodes,]

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cont.  
wherein said insulator layer forms [and] an external surface of said integrated circuit structure and [said electrodes extend] a portion of said fuse extends beyond said external surface, and

[wherein said fuse element is connected only to said electrodes and is maintained external to said integrated circuit structure by said electrodes]

wherein said fuse comprises a continuous conductive element.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

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28. (Currently Amended) The integrated circuit structure in claim 25, wherein said fuse [completes] forms a circuit with [comprising] said wiring elements[, said electrodes, and said fuse element].

~~29. (Previously Added) The integrated circuit structure in claim 25, wherein said wiring elements are internal to said integrated circuit structure and are separated from an external portion of said integrated circuit structure by said insulator layer.~~

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30. (Currently Amended) The integrated circuit structure in claim 25, wherein said portion of said fuse [element] is plated.